

# Town of Denning – Town Board Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Supervisor Brooks.  
Held on Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Denning Town Hall.

Present: Supervisor Brooks  
Councilmen: Gregory Vurckio, Kevin Smith, Mike Dean, and Paul Schoonmaker.  
Highway Superintendent Dan Van Sadlers.  
Public Present: Joy Monforte, Scott Mickelson, Lenny Johnson

The Town Clerk Minute Book was signed prior to the meetings commencement.

The Town Clerk gave the Board members their copy of the Agenda and Resolutions Nos. 55, 56, and 57 of 2023, and the Budget vs. Actual through November 2023.

## Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Brooks inquires if all the Councilmen have read the Minutes and asks if there are any amendments? All respond that the Minutes have been read and that there are no amendments.

Motion to adopt last months' minutes by Councilman Mike Dean, seconded by Councilman Gregory Vurckio. All in favor.

Councilman Mike Dean	AYE	Councilman Kevin Smith	AYE
Councilman Gregory Vurckio	AYE	Councilman Paul Schoonmaker	AYE
Supervisor David Brooks	AYE		

Motion carried following a unanimous roll call vote.

Correspondence – by Supervisor David Brooks.

➤ Rondout Neversink Stream Program representative Brenden Wagner was scheduled to appear before the Board with an update on 2023 activities, and plans for 2024 and 2025. Brenden was unable to attend tonight's meeting and emailed his report, which was read aloud by Supervisor Brooks and is attached hereto.

### Rondout Neversink Stream Program

#### Report for Town of Denning, December 2023

##### 2023 Activities:

**April-May:** Tree plantings at Ladleton Project. Over 2000 trees and shrubs and 2000 willow stakes installed. Worked performed by RNSP and McCarrey Landscaping.

**May:** Hazard Tree Removals. 8 sites in Denning, 1 in Neversink (Wellington). Leaning, undercut, and trees in river upstream of bridges released from bank and bucked up to safe pieces for protection of bank stability and bridge obstructions. Sites included Balace Road, Winton, Frost Valley, Riley Brook. Bid won by Davey Tree.

**June:** Bidding and prep work for Ladleton Culvert replacement. Additional tree removal by Davey. Bid won by Kingston Equipment (Baker Brothers).

**July-September:** Project monitoring and plant maintenance.

**August-November:** Denning Road culvert replacement in Ladleton.

**December:** Public premier of Ladleton Project Documentary, hopefully at Russian Mule. Date TBD. Hazard tree release from East Branch behind Lary Cole's property.

##### 2024 Plans:

**February:** Stream Program overview documentary film.

**March:** Hazard Tree removals. Please report any potential issues. Large sycamore at Balace Road Bridge is priority, see attached photo.

**April:** Tree plantings. Will return to past project sites to replace lost trees with larger plants and metal protection, including Town Hall.

**May:** Watershed workshop on Rivers, Trees, and Mushrooms. How to manage trees and fungi for healthy rivers. Talk on relationships between them, when, why, where, and how to manage trees for healthy and safe river corridors, and hands on mushroom inoculation with trees cut in March.

**May/June:** Denning Road Drainage Improvement. Currently in design to remove culvert by Bischoff residence causing landslide and streambank instability at East Valley Ranch. Road to remain open during construction. Upgrade road ditch and send water down to improved culvert down the road.

##### 2025:

**Riley Brook Confluence Stream Restoration:** Large stream restoration from location East Branch washed out Denning Road in Irene near Tison, down through landowner just above East Valley Ranch. Will address erosion, stream aggradation, flood, and road stability issues.

- Email received from Jenny Lee with update for the Board on Broadband issues and Commission update. Margaretville Telephone Company is expanding into upper Oliveria Road in the Town of Shandaken. Completion of map updates due next week. Discussion follows.
- Email information from Riel Peerbooms, CEO of the Frost Valley YMCA advising of date and time for meeting for Denning Residents and the YMCA for a "Denning Strategic Listening Session" scheduled for January 27, 2024 at Noon at the Claryville Firehouse. The meeting will also be available on Zoom.
- Received donation check to the Town from the Frost Valley YMCA in the amount of \$9,475.00 for the month of December. The Denning Town Board wishes to express its ongoing thanks to CEO Riel Pierbooms and the Frost Valley Board of Trustees for their support of the Town.
- Received check from Ulster County Dept. of Finance for Denning Sales Tax June to September 2023 in the amount of \$10,924.79.
- Agreement Letter received from Teri Lockhart confirming her services as Denning Financial Management Independent Audit for the year 2024 in the amount of \$5,300.00.
- Letter received from the Ulster County DPW confirming receipt of Speed Limit Reduction request for Frost Valley Road and confirmation that they have forwarded same to New York State DOT.
- Letter of Interest received from Joy Monforte regarding the open position on the Zoning Board of Appeals vacated by Archie Ackerley's letter of resignation received last month. Discussion follows. See Resolution No. 57 of 2023 below. Joy will appear before the Town Clerk next week to be sworn in to cover the remainder of Mr. Ackerley's term.

Highway Report: by Highway Superintendent Dan Van Saders.

- All trucks are turned over and ready for Winter Season. Sand and salt stores are in good shape. No major winter events so far.
- Superintendent Van Saders has been working with Superintendent-Elect Johnson on transition of duties come January 1, 2024. They were able to meet with Supervisor's Bookkeeper Cindy Mickelson to review financial information, etc.
- Ford 550 transmission lines changed and oil pan replaced. Romeo Ford did warranty the wheel bearing work on the front as it was already recently repaired.
- Superintendent Van Saders confirms receipt and review of recent Ulster County HMP emails regarding the Saito property and all looks good.
- Superintendent Van Saders thanks the Town Board for 20 years of good work and cooperation. He will be available to help with transitioning

newly elected Highway Superintendent Johnson as he assumes the job. The Board thanks Superintendent Van Sadars for his many years of service to Denning.

Planning Board Report - by Liaison Councilman Kevin Smith.

- Councilman Smith confirms that he did follow up with the Planning Board on the request from Ulster County Planning Department regarding volunteers for the County Planning Board.
- The Planning Board received a logging notification from Mootz and Sons Logging of Roscoe, NY for property owned by David Brooks SBL: 51-2-16.121. Insurance certificate received and \$100.00 fee paid.
- There were no other matters before the Planning Board.

Highway Pre-Pay Vouchers presented by Hwy. Super. Van Sadars.  
(See Warrant #12 Pre-Pay, Voucher Nos. 45 - 47).

MVP Health Care, Inc.	12PP-45	DA90608 · Health Ins.	-11,936.47
Trust & Agency Account - FICA	12PP-46	DA90308 · Social Security/Medicare	-696.13
Trust & Agency Account - FICA	12PP-47	DA90308 · Social Security/Medicare	-715.08
<b>Grand Total:</b>			<b>-13,347.68</b>

Highway Vouchers presented by Hwy. Super. Van Sadars.  
(See Warrant #12, Vouchers Nos. 136 - 145).

Advance Auto Parts	136	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-458.50
Bottini Fuel Corporation	137	DA51424 · Snow Removal-Contractual	-1,666.03
Chemung Supply Corp	138	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-1,457.50
Kimball Midwest	139	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-304.50
North East Parts Group	140	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-363.32
Romeo Ford	141	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-537.38
Sarjo Industries	142	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-373.78
Tolls by Mail Payment Processing Center	143	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-2.15
Van Buren Enterprises	144	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-1,483.00
Woods Repair Service	145	DA51304 · Machinery Contr	-80.00
<b>Grand Total:</b>			<b>-6,726.16</b>

General Pre-Pay Vouchers presented by Supervisor Brooks.  
(See Warrant #12 Pre-Pay, Vouchers Nos. 105 - 112).

Central Hudson	12PP-105	A8160.4 · Refuse & Garbage-Contractual	-47.40
Central Hudson	12PP-106	A5132.4 · Highway Garage-Contractual	-367.29
		A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-346.57
<b>Central Hudson Total:</b>			<b>-713.86</b>
Charter Communications	12PP-107	A5132.4 · Highway Garage-Contractual	-143.16
Charter Communications	12PP-108	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-184.88
Elan Financial Services	12PP-109	A1670.4 · Central Data Processing Contrac	-1.47
MVP Health Care Inc.	12PP-110	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-10,824.97
TRUST & AGENCY ACCOUNT - FICA	12PP-111	A9030.8 · Social Security	-736.12
TRUST & AGENCY ACCOUNT - FICA	12PP-112	A9030.8 · Social Security	-273.86
<b>Grand Total:</b>			<b>(12,925.72)</b>

General Vouchers, presented by Supervisor Brooks.  
(See Warrant #12, Voucher Nos. 168 - 181).

Bottini Fuel	168	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-670.95
Central Hudson	169	A5182.4 · Street Lighting - Contractual	-161.78
Jonathan Follender, Reim.	170	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-841.10
Hudson Microimaging Inc.	171	A1460.4 · Records Mgmt - Contractual	-93.00
Language Line Services	172	A1110.4 · Town Justice-Contractual	-40.70
Teri Lockhart, LLC	173	A1320.4 · Independent Auditing	-5,200.00
MVP Select Care Inc.	174	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-30.00
Cindy Mickelson, Reim.	175	A1220.4 · Town Supervisor-Contractual	-66.00

Joy Ann Monforte, Reimbursement	176	A9060.8 · Health Insurance	-1,173.16
QUILL CORP	177	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-40.26
	178	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-123.90
		<b>Total Quill:</b>	<b>-164.16</b>
UCRRA	179	A8160.4 · Refuse & Garbage-Contractual	-2,409.03
Postmaster	180	A1620.4 · Buildings-Contractual	-186.00
YE OLDE TRI-VALLEY TOWNSMAN	181	A1010.4 · Town Board-Contractual	-158.00
	181	A5010.4 · Supt. Highway-Contractual	-28.00
	181	A8020.4 · Planning-Contractual	-26.00
			-212.00
		<b>Grand Total:</b>	<b>(11,247.88)</b>

Capital Vouchers, presented by Supervisor Brooks.  
(See Warrant #12, Voucher Nos. None).

Supervisor Brooks inquires if the Councilman are satisfied with the audit of the Vouchers. The Councilmen respond in the affirmative.

**Resolution No. 55 of 2023**

**WHEREAS** New York State General Municipal Law Sections 103 and 104-4 permit the pre-audit function of vouchers, as a form of internal controls in the checking of claims and supporting documentation. And

**WHEREAS** the Sections 118 and 119 of New York State Municipal Law also authorize the auditing authority to approve of Said vouchers. AND

**WHEREAS** the Office of the New York State Comptroller Division of Local Governments and Accountability: Budgets and Finances also approves of this method.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Denning Town Board **HEREBY** approves of and authorizes payment of the following Warrants:

- Highway Fund Prep Pay Warrant No. 12 Voucher Nos. 45 - 47.
- Highway Fund Warrant No. 12, Voucher Nos. 136 - 145.
- General Fund Pre-Pay Warrant No.12 Voucher Nos. 105 - 112.
- General Fund Warrant No. 12 Voucher Nos. 168 - 181.
- Capital Fund Sewage Disposal Warrant No. 12 Vouchers None.

**Whereupon,** The Resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:  
Motion to adopt and approve by Councilman Mike Dean and seconded by Councilman Kevin Smith.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Mike Dean	AYE	Councilman Paul Schoonmaker	AYE
Councilman Kevin Smith	AYE	Councilman Gregory Vurckio	AYE
Supervisor David Brooks	AYE		

Motion carried following a unanimous roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 56 of 2023**

**WHEREAS** New York State Real Property Law Section 523 grants the Town Board the right to appoint a Board of Assessment Review, and

**WHEREAS** Board of Assessment Review member Judith Sorice has completed her current 5-year term which expired September 30, 2023, And

**WHEREAS** Judith Sorice has expressed a desire to continue to volunteer for public service and continue to serve another term as a member of the Board of Assessment Review.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Judith Sorice be appointed to continue as a member of the Town of Denning Board of Assessment Review for a 5-year term as required by New York State Law, to expire September 30, 2028.

**FURTHER, RESOLVED** that all newly appointed members be required to take and subscribe a constitutional Oath of Office to be filed with the Town Clerk, and that each member shall be notified of appointment and duration of term in writing by first class mail no later than 10 business days following the annual organizational meeting.

**Whereupon,** The Resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:  
Motion to adopt and approve by Councilman Gregory Vurckio and seconded by Councilman Paul Schoonmaker.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Mike Dean	AYE	Councilman Paul Schoonmaker	AYE
Councilman Kevin Smith	AYE	Councilman Gregory Vurckio	AYE
Supervisor David Brooks	AYE		

Motion carried following a unanimous roll call vote.

**Resolution No. 57 of 2023**

**WHEREAS** New York State Town Law section §267 confers specific authority on the Town Board to appoint members to fill vacancies on the Zoning Board of Appeals, And

**WHEREAS** Archie Ackerley, an appointed Zoning Board of Appeals member whose current term expires December 31, 2023, submitted his resignation effective November 12, 2023, And

**WHEREAS** this vacancy occurs before the end of term, **THEREFORE** this appointment is for a "Remainder of Term appointment." And

**WHEREAS**, the above stated New York State Town Law sections authorizes the Town Board to fill Said vacancy. And

**WHEREAS** Joy Monforte has expressed a desire to volunteer to fill the Remainder of Term appointment due to Archie Ackerley's resignation, And

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Joy Monforte be appointed to fill the vacancy created by Said resignation of Zoning Board of Appeals for the remainder of term to December 31, 2023.

**BE IT FURTHER, RESOLVED** that all newly appointed members be required to take and subscribe a constitutional Oath of Office to be filed with the Town Clerk, and that each member shall be notified of appointment and duration of term in writing by first class mail no later than 10 business days following the annual organizational meeting.

**Whereupon**, The Resolution was put to a vote and recorded as follows:  
Motion to adopt and approve by Councilman Kevin Smith and seconded by Councilman Mike Dean.

Roll Call Vote:

Councilman Mike Dean	AYE	Councilman Paul Schoonmaker	AYE
Councilman Kevin Smith	AYE	Councilman Gregory Vurckio	AYE
Supervisor David Brooks	AYE		

Motion carried following a unanimous roll call vote.

Supervisor Comments:

- Supervisor Brooks reports that he met with the CWC and SLR Engineering this morning regarding the Sundown Stream Project. Parts of Peekamoose Road will be armored and utility pole issues addressed near the new Sundown Road bridge.
- NYS DEC work continues at the Peekamoose Campgrounds/Blue Hole.

Supervisor Brooks calls for Councilmen Comments:

- Councilman Vurckio informs the Board that there was no November CWT meeting. For the past several weeks Jeff Baker held virtual meetings with the City and Watershed lawyers and stakeholders on how the collaborative process for the SAP program will work. The discussions have been positive according to Mr. Baker. Discussion of same was held at the stakeholder meeting on November 29<sup>th</sup>. They are figuring out how to integrate the new SAP model with stream management, stewardships and Town/Village approvals. The next CWT meeting is scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Councilman Schoonmaker informs the Board that there were no shows for court appearances at the latest Justice Court session, further frustrating Judge Follender. Discussion follows. Councilman Schoonmaker thanks the Board for all his years of service as he has learned so much. The Town Board wishes to thank Councilman Schoonmaker for his dedicated service to the Town of Denning.
- Councilman Dean has no further comments.
- Councilman Smith has no further comments.

Supervisor Brooks calls for any further councilmen comments or discussion. There is none.

Supervisor Brooks calls for Public Comment:

- Joy Monforte wishes to publicly thank Paul Schoonmaker and Dan Van Saders for their dedicated and excellent service to the Town of Denning. All those present agree and add their appreciation and respect.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 pm made by Councilman Mike Dean and seconded by Councilman Gregory Vurckio. All in Favor. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy A Parrow, Town Clerk, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

The Town of Denning 2024 Organizational Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 at 10:00 am. No other business will be before the Board at this meeting.

Next Town Board & Business Meeting: Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6 pm at the Denning Town Hall.